

## Subject: **Special Open Door Forum Listening Session: Section 641 of MMA 2003**

When: **Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (EST)**

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 included several important provisions related to drug coverage and payment in the Medicare program.

Section 641 of the Act requires that the Secretary conduct a demonstration under Part B of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act under which payment is made for “drugs or biologicals that are prescribed as replacements for drugs and biologicals described in section 1861(s)(2)(A) or 1861(s)(2)(Q)”

CMS is interested in holding this Special Listening Session to gather your input related to the implementation of this provision, and to allow interested parties to be heard by their healthcare industry peers. CMS will not be able to respond to your comments at this forum, but intends to utilize your input when considering and developing this demonstration.

The primary topics for consideration are:

- How should CMS define “replacement” drugs?
- What drugs would be covered under this demonstration, what drugs do they replace, and under what circumstances are these drugs provided?
- What are the most appropriate outreach methods to reach such beneficiaries?

For a more detailed list of the information CMS is seeking, please reference the demonstration website:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers/demos/drugcoveragedemo.asp>

We ask that all interested persons who wish to present their positions or comments prepare to speak within a restricted time limit; dependent upon the number of requests we receive by close of business **Tuesday, January 27, 2004.** Telephone call-in participants will be given an opportunity to speak as well, and will be under the same time limitations as participants speaking in-person.

CMS requests that interested parties please prepare their comments or input in written form and submit this information to the same (RSVP) email address as listed below. If not possible at the time of RSVP, we request that you bring a hard copy of your written material for collection at the meeting in Baltimore.

There are 2 ways to participate, by phone or "in-person".

1. To participate by phone:

Dial: **1-800-837-1935** & Reference Conference ID: **5069907**

Persons participating by phone are not required to RSVP.

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html> .

A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

2. To participate "in-person" at the CMS Baltimore Site, an **RSVP is required**.

**To register**, please **RSVP** (by close of business Tuesday, January 27, 2004) via email to [SECTION641DEMO@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:SECTION641DEMO@cms.hhs.gov) if you plan to attend. Please send us your name along with the name of your organization, and contact information, and **indicate whether or not you plan to speak**.

Please arrive no later than 1:40 PM. Photo identification required at security points.

ADDRESS:

CMS Single Site Building  
Auditorium  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Map & Directions: <http://cmsnet.cms.hhs.gov/hpages/ocsq/cmsdirections-north.htm>

**ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687; Conf. ID# 5069907**

“Encore” is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conf. ID beginning on Monday, February 2, 2004. The recording expires after 4 days.

For Forum Schedule updates, Listserv registration and Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at [www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor/)

Thank you,

Rich Lawlor  
Office of the Administrator  
Director - Open Door Initiative  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
200 Independence Ave., SW